

REMARKS

I. Continuation Status

The present application is a continuation of allowed, co-pending application Serial No. 09/389,435, filed September 03, 1999 ("the '435 application"; Attorney Docket No. 4100.001000).

The '435 application was filed with claims 1-79, which the Office restricted into two patentably distinct inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Applicants elected the Group I invention (claims 1-47) without traverse. Examination proceeded and the elected claims were allowed and will issue.

The present continuation is based upon claim 44 allowed in the '435 application. Applicants intend to submit additional claims prior to payment of the filing fee.

The preceding amendments to the specification and claims are fully supported by the parent application to which priority is claimed, and Applicants respectfully request entry of such amendments.

II. Status of the Claims

On filing the present continuation, the accompanying Request cancels claims 1-43 and 45-79 from the parent application. Claims 48-79 represented the Group II invention from the parent application. No claims have been added.

Independent claim 44 is therefore in the case. Currently, claim 44 is in original form and is supported by the same claim in the parent application.

III. Compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

The claim for priority has been timely introduced into the specification by amendment of the opening paragraph at page 2. The title and the inventorship (see below) have been revised. The amendments to the specification comply with the revisions to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

According to the revisions to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c), a copy of the pending claims is provided in the amendment section.

IV. Inventorship

The inventorship of the present continuation application has been revised to correspond to the parent application.

In the parent application, a petition was filed to correct the named inventors under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(a). Specifically, Nathan Ockwig was deleted from the inventors, such that the correct inventors were George J. Brewer, Sofia D. Merajver and Dimitri Coucouvanis. The same change is being made in this continuation application. Copies of the petition and supporting documents from the parent application are presently enclosed.

As the inventorship of the present continuation application corresponds to the parent application, no additional fees should be required. However, should a petition or any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to inventorship, the present paper should be considered as the required petition and the Commissioner is authorized to deduct any necessary fees from Williams, Morgan & Amerson Deposit Account No. 50-0786/4100.001099.

V. Formalities

Applicants have chosen to submit the application without the filing fees. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) and (f), Applicants request that the Office accept the application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date the application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. A NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f) should be sent to the undersigned Applicants' representative.

Formal drawings are enclosed herewith. Applicants' initial duty of disclosure is also met (see paragraphs in the Request for Continuation and enclosed courtesy copies of 1449s).

Should the office have any questions or comments, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: March 9, 2004